

has excelled at now for 49 years in 139 countries through 7,671 volunteers.

On the other side of town, several members of our delegation visited a start-up small business, the brainchild of retiree and Peace Corps volunteer Barbara Eberhart, whose second career is dedicated to empowering the women of Morocco.

The group visited a fabric and embroidery shop developed by a community of Berber women aided by a micro-credit loan and Barbara's guidance and unbounded energy. These women, unable to read or write and essentially marginalized in Moroccan society, have formed a cooperative where they create fine embroidered goods and sell them in local markets. Their small business not only provides desperately needed income, but gives these women a stronger sense of themselves, their community and hope for their future and that of their children.

With Peace Corps volunteers coming from all backgrounds, ages and various stages of life, this program is as diverse as our country. The local citizen collaboration inherent in all Peace Corps work helps build enduring relationships between the United States and Peace Corps partner countries.

The Peace Corps invests time and talent in other countries, but it pays dividends back here in the United States as well. Those who are taught or helped by Peace Corps volunteers are likely to have more favorable opinions of the United States. More than that, many of the volunteers themselves are inspired to public service upon their return to this country, some becoming Governors and Members of Congress, including our own colleague and fellow Helsinki Commissioner, Senator DODD of Connecticut.

I left Aitourir thinking Kate was the exemplary Peace Corps volunteer with her welcoming smile, passion for service and genuine love for the Moroccan people. But aware of the success of so many other Peace Corps programs around the world, I know Kate is one of many volunteers—all of whom would have left as great an impression.

The Peace Corps is a program that works. Volunteers year in and year out continue to fulfill the Peace Corps mission of bringing training and education to interested countries and strengthening understanding between Americans and our neighbors in the global community. Congratulations to the Peace Corps for 49 remarkable years. I look forward to its continued success.

RECOGNIZING VISTA ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to speak on a resolution I have cosigned celebrating Volunteers In Service To America, or VISTA, on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty.

This resolution will demonstrate the great appreciation this country has for its volunteers, specifically honoring

the 45th anniversary of the VISTA Program.

Last year nearly 50 VISTA volunteers provided service in Alaska. These citizens are vital to fighting poverty in our State. The success of this program is evident in the programs it has left behind such as Head Start, job training plans, and credit unions. From its beginnings in 1965 to today, VISTA has dedicated hard work, time, and innovation to lift Americans all over the country out of poverty.

While the mission to fight against poverty has a long history, VISTA has continued to adapt to various localities and challenges to provide new and inspired solutions. Alaska boasts many past and present VISTA volunteers. Many of them have become prominent in Alaska's public and private sectors.

In Alaska, John Shively came to the state with VISTA from New York State with the intention of staying for 1 year. He became involved in local government in Alaska and was involved in the Native lands settlements of early statehood. He later became the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, overseeing more than 80 million acres of State land. He has also been a regent for the University of Alaska, and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce was proud to award John Shively the title "Outstanding Alaskan of the Year" in 2009.

Willie Hensley is an Alaska Native and one of the many successful residents of Alaska. He was a VISTA volunteer and went on to serve in the Alaska State Legislature. He founded the NANA Native Corporation after working hard to ensure equitable settlement of Alaska Native land claims. He is one of the founding members of the Alaska Federation of Natives and is a well known author.

John Shively and Willie Hensley are just two examples of the thousands of VISTA volunteers who have served Alaska and her people. VISTA is a program serving all Americans with the focus on lifting poor Americans out of poverty so their futures can be as bright as the northern lights. VISTA's 45 years of service to the country has made a difference in so many lives, in Alaska and across the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PROTHRO HEBERT

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my constituent, Sylvia Prothro Hebert, who has been selected as a 2009 Great Comebacks Recipient for the West Region. This program honors individuals who are living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgeries, procedures that reconstruct bowel and bladder function through the use of a specially fitted medical prosthesis. Sylvia is one of over 700,000 Americans, from young children to senior citizens, who have an

ostomy. The Great Comeback Awards celebrate the spirit and courage with which a patient embraces life after ostomy surgery. Sylvia and the other Great Comebacks Awardees are Americans who live life to the fullest despite the daily challenges presented by their respective conditions.

At age 9, Sylvia was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. She managed her symptoms with medication, but experienced constant flare-ups during college. At age 21, her intestines were punctured during a colonoscopy and she underwent ostomy surgery. Following this surgery, Sylvia was emotionally distraught; however, she entered counseling and learned how to cope with her stoma. Sylvia has since triumphed over her illness, and achieved her dream of becoming a flight attendant. By her records, she's the first Delta SkyTeam flight attendant with an ileostomy. Additionally, Sylvia joined the Delta Ski and Snowboard team and has earned ribbons in many competitions. Sylvia has also completed two half-marathons and a triathlon.

Today, Sylvia lives in Park City, UT, with her husband Paul and their children, Reese, Garrett, and Renee. I commend Sylvia and the other Great Comebacks Regional Award Recipients. Their personal stories are inspirational and will raise awareness about the great comebacks being made by those living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery. •

REMEMBERING HARRY AGGANIS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, there is a mid-winter tradition throughout New England and across my home State of Maine—talking baseball. Not just any baseball, of course, but Boston Red Sox baseball.

These discussions, whether they take place around the kitchen wood stove or the office water cooler, range from the team's storied history to the prospects for the upcoming season. The heroes of the past, Yastrzemski, Williams, and so many more, are recalled, as are the more recent stars, such as Schilling and Ramirez.

At times, fans reminisce about a young man who, although his career was cut tragically short, continues to inspire through his athleticism, competitive spirit, and generosity. His name was Aristotle George Agganis. His friends called him Harry. He will always be remembered as the Golden Greek.

Harry Agganis was born in Lynn, MA, in 1929. Although he is known as a baseball player, he first made his mark in football as a star quarterback for Boston University. As a sophomore in 1949 he set a school record for touchdown passes. He left school in 1950 to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps.

When he completed his service to our nation, he returned to college, setting a school record for passing yards, winning the Bulger Lowe Award as New

England's outstanding football player, and becoming Boston University's first All-American in football. Upon his graduation, he was offered a lucrative contract to play football for the Cleveland Browns but chose instead to sign with the Red Sox so he could remain near his widowed mother.

Here are a few stories that illustrate the character of this young man and the esteem in which he is held.

While still a student in 1953, Harry Agganis was inducted into the new Boston University Hall of Fame. He declined gifts of a car and \$4,000 from his classmates and instead asked that the cash equivalent be put toward establishing a scholarship for Greek-American students with financial need.

On June 6, 1954, he homered at Fenway Park and scored the winning run as the Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers. Following the game, he changed into a cap and gown in the Sox clubhouse, ran down Commonwealth Avenue in time for the graduation ceremonies on the B.U. campus, and received his bachelor's degree in education.

As the 1955 season opened, he was off to a good start, but on June 2 he was hospitalized with pneumonia. He rejoined the team 10 days later but fell ill again. He died on June 27 of a pulmonary embolism. Ten thousand mourners attended his wake.

His career was brief, but his name lives on. In 1956, a 1,000-seat baseball facility, Harry Agganis Stadium, was dedicated in his honor at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he served. A memorial plaque placed at the field reads, "Endowed with peerless talent, Corporal Agganis exemplified the finest in competitive spirit and sportsmanship. An All-American football player, and later a professional baseball player, his outstanding accomplishments in the field of athletics were an inspiration to other Marines who served and were teammates with him during his career in the Marine Corps."

He was inducted posthumously into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1974. In 1995, Gaffney Street in Boston was re-named Harry Agganis Way. In 2004, Agganis Arena was dedicated in his honor on the Boston University campus. Each year, members of the New England Sportswriters Association present the Harry Agganis Award to the outstanding New England college football senior.

His character and accomplishments have been set to music by a talented songwriter and devoted Red Sox fan in Bangor, ME, named Joe Pickering, Jr. Joe recently retired after 30 years of dedicated service as executive director of Community Health and Counseling Services in Bangor. It is my pleasure to have printed his inspiring lyrics into the RECORD:

THE GOLDEN GREEK

Time washes away people who depart
You who remain cherish heroes of the heart
They seldom grace earth but, not for long
The Golden Greek lives in this song

Too many athletes spell team as m-e
The Golden Greek knew team meant only we
This All-American truly stood apart
The Golden Greek was simply pure of heart
Four hundred churches honored for forty days

The man who touched many hearts in so many ways
Fifty thousand said goodbye as his church choir
Sang love for the man who set the sports world afire

Harry Agganis stirred heart and soul
Did God take him so he would never grow old?

Heroes live forever though Harry died young
The song of the Golden Greek will always be sung

Thousands of marines in the Carolina sun
Named a field for the marine who left no deed undone

The first Olympic heroes won olive wreaths
His silver wreath from the king and queen of Greece

The seventh child of immigrants born in Lynn
Learned playing the game right was the way to win

He hit major league pitching at fourteen years of age
Then went on to glory on the sports page

This Hall of Famer scrambled forty yards from the pocket
He threw feather passes or shots like a rocket

Though he looked and played like a Greek god

This flesh and blood hero was one with the lord

He gave to the poor and church, gifts he received

Harry lived the golden rule, as he believed
His smile warm and bright like sunshine in July

Why at twenty-six did this Red Sox star die?
The NFL played games in honor of his name
All for a man who never played a pro game
He planned to play for the Sox and the NFL
What might have been only God can tell
This hero of the heart was like no other
His last words: were "take care of my mother"

In the pantheon of sports, the Golden Greek reigns

His mem'ry glowing like the Olympic flame

TRIBUTE TO LATOYA LUCAS

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Latoya Lucas of Colorado Springs, who will be awarded today with the 2009 Tony Snow Public Service Award. This distinction was created to "honor extraordinary individuals who are passionate about serving their country while dealing courageously with debilitating intestinal diseases and ostomy surgery."

In 2003, Latoya was a new mother and an Army specialist serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom when her humvee was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. She thankfully survived the incident, but her injuries resulted in a colostomy and 2 years of intensive rehabilitation. Latoya's brave service has been recognized by such honors and distinctions as the Purple Heart Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction Award. In 2005, she became the first female recipient of the Mili-

tary Order of the Purple Heart's Reagan V Patriot of the Year Award.

After her retirement from the Army, Latoya became a motivational speaker and writer to share her remarkable story with others and encourage people to draw strength from their struggles. Latoya's book, "The Immeasurable Spirit: Lessons of a Wounded Warrior about Faith and Perseverance," received the Gold Medal Award from the Military Writers Society of America. Additionally, Latoya is the chair of the Wounded Warrior Welcome Home Social. She has inspired so many others to draw strength from adversity. As Latoya has said, "There are so many soldiers who come back home with injuries and untold numbers having ostomy surgery. I answer questions they have and show them that they can lead a full life with an ostomy."

There are thousands of veterans and Active-Duty members who call Colorado home, a fact that is a source of pride for me. Coloradans like Latoya are a testament to the bravery and strength of our veterans and their remarkable ability to deal with life-changing injuries. Latoya has become a leader and a source of strength for fellow citizens who face similar injuries, and I want to thank her for her service to this country. I am proud to have this opportunity to share just some examples of Latoya's bravery and achievements, and I congratulate her and the other Great Comebacks Award recipients.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3820. An act to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes.

At 6:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: